

The i-SAFE Education Initiative and Educational Standards

Prepared for the State of Montana

Introduction

i-SAFE offers an innovative, student-centered curriculum for grades K-12 by integrating best practices in teaching and learning with opportunities for youth empowerment and outreach, ensuring that knowledge and skills are not only taught, but retained.

i-SAFE and Student Standards

The i-SAFE curriculum is aligned with the *National Educational Technology Standards for Students* published by the International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE), and is correlated to key recommendations from a Congressional Study on Tools and Strategies for Protecting Kids from Pornography and Their Applicability to Other Inappropriate Internet Content. All lessons are reviewed and approved by the Child Protective Division of the Office of Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention within the Department of Justice.

The i-SAFE curriculum provides the means to meet Educational Technology standards and benchmarks that directly relate to Internet safety, and helps to insure that students are equipped to be proactive in maintaining their personal safety at all times while online. i-SAFE curriculum covers content Standards and Benchmarks in the areas of Educational Technology, Career and Life Skills, Health, Political Science/Civics, and Language Arts. For purposes of this document, the content Standards for Educational Technology have been included.

Educational Technology

The i-SAFE program provides students with the knowledge and tools they need to be ready for the realm of Cyberspace. By equipping them with knowledge, students not only know how to use information and technology effectively, but know how to use it safely.

The i-SAFE curriculum is correlated to Montana's six standards of technology content. Montana standards for education opens with this statement:

Effective integration of technology into the learning environment encourages movement from teacher-centered instruction to student-centered learning—learning in which multi-sensory stimulation combines with increased student responsibility to widen the opportunity for all students to succeed.

Technologically literate students work collaboratively in inquiry-based learning activities, rich in relevant content, while thinking critically and solving problems in real-world contexts.

The i-SAFE program firmly supports these philosophies. Curriculum is designed to be student-centered and incorporates opportunities for student empowerment. Various learning styles are actively engaged in the learning process through a scope of activities which include participatory games, creative youth empowerment opportunities, and analytical processes such as website evaluation. Student choices for outreach activities in the curriculum allow them to take ownership of their learning and engage in active real-world activities. Finally, teachers are allowed flexibility for classroom set-up and utilization of technology in lessons. This allows teachers to make the most of the technology they have available to them.

Technology Content Standard 1—Students demonstrate an understanding of the basic operations of technologies.

The i-SAFE curriculum allows students to develop a familiarity with technology in a safe environment. Students develop an understanding of key terminology used in online communication and learn specific computer techniques. Students are given opportunities to practice usage in activities.

[Grades K-4 lessons: Personal Safety, Cyber Security, Cyber Community, Text Messaging Safety, Safety and Identity]

[Grades 5-8 lessons: Personal Safety, Cyber Security, Cyber Community, Intellectual Property, Text Messaging Safety, Web Logs: A Positive Approach to Blogging, Social Networking, Spyware Risks, National Security Watch]

[Grades 9-12 all non-webcast and webcast lessons]

Technology Content Standard 2—*Students use a variety of technologies to enhance productivity.*

i-SAFE lesson plan activities utilize a variety of technologies for those who choose the technology track of the lessons. Students gain the opportunity to use publishing software, carry out web quests, and safely communicate using technology.

[Grades 4-8 lessons: Cyber Community, Personal Safety, Cyber Security, Intellectual Property, and enrichment activities in all supplemental lessons]

[Grades 9-12: enrichment activities in all non-webcast and webcast lessons]

Technology Content Standard 3—*Students use a variety of technologies for communication.*

The i-SAFE program includes a primary focus on online communication, and enables students to develop safe communication skills. Students are introduced to safe web browsing, e-mailing, instant messaging, newsgroup posting, etc.

[Grades K-4 lessons: Personal Safety, Cyber Security, Cyber Community, Text Messaging Safety, Safety and Identity]

[Grades 5-8 lessons: Personal Safety, Cyber Security, Cyber Community, Intellectual Property, Text Messaging Safety, Web Logs: A Positive Approach to Blogging, Social Networking, Spyware Risks, National Security Watch]

[Grades 9-12 all i-SAFE non-webcast and webcast lessons]

Technology Content Standard 4—*Students use technology responsibly and understand its impact on individuals and society.*

The core focus of the i-SAFE curriculum is to develop responsible technology use along with an understanding its impact. Every lesson addresses this standard and including topics such as identifying online communication risks, netiquette issues, cyber security, and online intellectual property theft. Responsibilities, rules, and consequences are addressed for each topic.

[Grades K-12: all i-SAFE lessons]

Technology Content Standard 5—*Students develop the skills, knowledge and abilities to apply a variety of technologies to conduct research, manage information, and solve problems.*

The i-SAFE curriculum provides information about how to conduct research and utilize information found on the Internet with lessons targeted at showing students how to assess the appropriateness, validity, and reliability of websites. Additional activities such as web quests, enable students to analyze information found online and use it to solve problems.

[Grades K-5 i-SAFE lesson Cyber Community] [Grades 6-8 i-SAFE lessons: Cyber Community, Cyber Security, and Intellectual Property] [Grades 9-12 lessons Cyber Community, Privacy and the Internet (webcast), Cyber Relationships (webcasts), Intellectual Property (webcast)]

Technology Content Standard 6—*Students apply technological abilities and knowledge to construct new personal understanding.*

The i-SAFE program not only develops skills in current topics but also allows students to utilize information to construct new knowledge. Through discussion and group work, lesson activities ask students to take learned/constructed knowledge and expand upon it to develop possible solutions to current problems, ultimately resulting in student empowerment and retention of knowledge.

[Grades K-12: all i-SAFE lessons]

i-SAFE and Teaching/Administration Standards

i-SAFE promotes best practices for teachers by incorporating key strategies of the learning process. The depth and breadth represented in the curriculum in terms of material and activities reaches numerous learning styles, incorporates options into the learning process, and allows for different classroom set-ups. Lessons appeal to learners with a variety of learning styles, and empowerment activities allow students to take ownership of knowledge. In this manner, i-SAFE provides a foundation for student retention and expansion of knowledge.

The following are examples of the best practices that the i-SAFE curriculum employs:

1. *Demonstrates knowledge of the diverse ways in which students learn and develop by providing learning opportunities that support their intellectual, physical, emotional, and social development.*
This best practice is consistently met within the curriculum by offering instructional flexibility and options in activities to the instructor. Activities in lessons appeal to a variety of learners and learning styles.
2. *Understands and uses a variety of instructional strategies and appropriate technologies.*
Lesson plans offer two tracks for a variety of classroom formats and styles. Teachers can choose to incorporate technology as they see fit, as well as complete implementation without computers. In this manner i-SAFE allows for a variety of instructional strategies and appropriate technologies.
3. *Creates and maintains a classroom environment which supports and encourages learning.*
The i-SAFE curriculum is diverse in activities. Discussion is utilized to allow students to incorporate prior knowledge. Empowerment activities encourage students to take ownership of knowledge.
4. *Demonstrates the ability to support students' learning and well being by engaging students, home, school, colleagues, and community.*
Lesson plans incorporate many activities designed to allow students to share learning at home and throughout the school, and to reach out into the community. In this manner the students become the teacher and knowledge is retained at a higher rate. It also allows for involvement of the outside community in the student's learning process.
5. *Demonstrates a strong professional ethic and a desire to contribute to the education profession.*
Participation in the i-SAFE Professional Development Program provides teachers with up-to-date Internet safety expertise and, once trained, the opportunity to become leaders and host their own professional development workshops.

National Educational Technology Standards for Teachers

The i-SAFE program aligns with NETS for Teachers (NETS-T) in the following ways:

Standards I. Technology Operations and Concepts – Teachers are introduced to concepts and information to help them keep abreast of current Internet safety and responsible use issues, and will be provided with resources to further their professional growth in this area.

Standard III. Teaching, Learning and the Curriculum – Teachers will be introduced to curriculum which is (a) completely aligned with NETS for Students and existing state standards, and (b) facilitates learner-centered engagement that reaches numerous learning styles, incorporates options into the learning process, and allows for integration into different classroom environments (with computers or without computers).

Standards VI. Social, Ethical, and Human Issues – Through the analysis of Internet safety and responsible use issues, as well as the observation of student involvement in curricular activities, educators will gain knowledge and skills which will enable them to promote safe and responsible use of technology resources, and will prepare them to model and teach legal and ethical practices in technology.

National Educational Technology Standards for Administrators

The I-SAFE program aligns with NETS for Administrators (NETS-A) in the following ways:

Standard II. Learning and Teaching – Through analysis of the need for responsible action in developing technology programs which integrate proactive student engagement in Internet safety issues, as well as through the observation of student involvement in i-SAFE curricular activities, administrators learn strategies for enabling teachers in providing quality, standards-based Internet safety and responsible use curriculum.

Standard VI. Social, legal, and Ethical Issues – An overview of current Internet safety and responsible use issues, supporting data, and appropriate resources, enables administrators to create strategies to provide quality professional development opportunities for teachers in order to promote online safety and responsible usage in the use of technology.

i-SAFE America and the Federal No Child Left Behind Act

The federal No Child Left Behind (NCLB) act specifically identifies Internet Safety as an area in which school districts with federal funds must devote energy and resources. The NCLB Legislation supports expanded access to technology and the Internet by students in schools and reinforces the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA), by stating that any district not already doing so must adopt a policy on Internet safety.

The i-SAFE America program stands as a best practices, research based program to introduce students to common online concepts, basic safety skills and knowledge, and information necessary to be informed, responsible, net wise citizens. i-SAFE integrates with current national standards and easily aligns with curriculum currently in place in the school setting. The curriculum provides a framework for imparting necessary knowledge in this networked world.